

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EUR-12 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 12424

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM UNGA JA
SUBJECT: SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT - GOJ ASSESSMENT

REF: STATE 168947

1. EMBOFFS JULY 7 PROVIDED MOFA UN BUREAU DISARMAMENT
DIVDIR WATANABE USUN ASSESSMENT OF SSOD ALONG LINE OF REFTEL.
WATANABE SAID GOJ ASSESSMENT WAS VERY SIMILAR. IN GENERAL,
MOFA THOUGHT OUTCOME WAS CONSIDERABLY BETTER THAN WHAT MIGHT
HAVE BEEN EXPECTED. JAPANESE WERE PARTICULARLY HAPPY WITH
LANGUAGE ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER. WATANABE NOTED IT
HAD NOT BEEN EASY MATTER TO DEFLECT NON-ALIGNED PRESSURES--
PARTICULARLY FROM PAKISTAN--FOR INCLUSION OF REFERENCE TO
PRODUCTION IN FINAL LANGUAGE.

2. SSOD WAS ESPECIALLY NOTEWORTHY FOR JAPAN IN THAT FOR
FIRST TIME MOFA WAS ABLE TO ESTABLISH FRIENDLY WORKING
RELATIONSHIPS WITH NGOS INVOLVED IN DISARMAMENT QUESTIONS.
IN PAST, POLITICAL DIFFERENCES HAD PREVENTED ANY MEANINGFUL
EXCHANGE. IN PREPARATIONS FOR SSOD, HOWEVER, MOFA
GAVE NGOS BRIEFINGS, ARRANGED OTHER MEETINGS AND
INCORPORATED SOME FAVORITE NGO POSITIONS IN FONMIN'S
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SPEECH. WATANABE ADDED THAT SONODA WAS PERSONALLY
INVOLVED IN DRAFTING OF HIS SPEECH AND WAS PLEASED AT
FAVORABLE REACTION FROM OTHER DELEGATES.

3. WATANABE SAID MOFA APPRECIATED USUN ASSISTANCE, BOTH
DURING FORMAL SESSIONS OF SSOD AND IN DEALING WITH OVER
500 JAPANESE NGO REPRESENTATIVES. HE COMMENTED THAT

AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S PERSONAL EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE SSOD
CONSENSUS WERE NOTED BY OTHER DELEGATIONS AND WERE MOST
EFFECTIVE. AT SAME TIME, WATANABE SAID JAPANESE HAD
EXPECTED U.S. TO BE SOMEWHAT MORE FORTHCOMING AT SESSION.
WATANABE SAID THAT WHILE SECRETARY VANCE'S STATEMENT ON
NEGATIVE SECURITY ASSURANCES WAS HELPFUL, IT CAME TOO LATE
IN SESSION TO ALLOW LANGUAGE TO BE INSERTED INTO FINAL
DOCUMENT OR TO PUT SOVIETS ON DEFENSIVE. IMPACT WOULD HAVE
BEEN MUCH ENHANCED HAD VICE PRESIDENT BEEN ABLE TO INCLUDE
STATEMENT IN HIS SPEECH.

4. JAPANESE MEDIA REACTION WAS GENERALLY VERY FAVORABLE.
FRENCH AND PRC PARTICIPATION IN ENLARGED DISARMAMENT
COMMITTEE WAS SEEN AS PARTICULARLY ENCOURAGING SIGN FOR
FUTURE. MANSFIELD

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